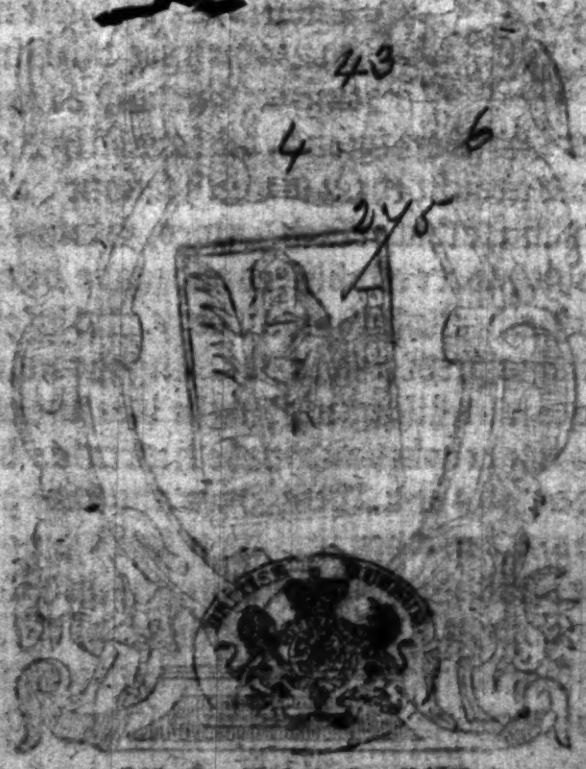
THE

True Copie of an Edict, made by the King of Spaine, concerning the new Christians Dwelling in Portugall, and of their departure out of his saide Realmes & Dominions, freely without molestation, or losse of their goodes, and also of free libertie to them graunted, for their returne againe into his Realmes and Dominions: whensoever they shall thinke good.

(*)

Translated out of the Portugall language, into English. 1602.

AtLONDON,
Printed by R. B. for Thomas Pauier.



LONDON,
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A True Copie of the King of Spaines late Edict, touching the Christians &c.

LOrde PHILLIP, by the grace of God, I giue to vnderstand vnto all those to whom this my Letter, or Edict shall come, to be séene or read, that George Rochiges Soles, and Rodrigo Dandrades, Atturneys, or Solicitors, of théese new Christians, which are dwelling or inhabiting within any of my Realmes, Lordeships and Dominions, did earnestly Request of me, that I should graunt them so much fauour, as to Charge and Commaunde that al such Lawes, Statutes, and Ordinances, which were established and made by the King my Lorde and Father, which is in Glory, and by other Lordes and Kinges his predecessors, touching the new Christians inhabiting and dwelling within the Realme of Portugall, might be quite reboked and made frustrate: by which said Lawes, Statutes and Ordinances, the saide persons were prohibited and forbidden that they shoulde not departe out of the saide Realmes, Dominions and Lordeships, without expresse Leaue and Licence: and for to sell their goodes and Landes: whereupon the said Atturneyes or Solicitors for thele new Christians haue as aforesaide most ernestly re-

queſted and deſired, that from that time forwardes it might be lawfull to and for any of the ſaide new Chriſtians, to depart and go their wayes freely out of the ſaide Kingdomes Dominions and Lordeſhips, and alſo for to returne backe againe at all times whenſoeuer it ſhall pleaſe them, with their families and goodes, without any offence vnto any perſon: and not to be bounde at any time hereafter, to aſke or demaunde any Leaue or License at all, and likewiſe that I ſhoulde giue them free leaue and license to ſell their goodes and Landes at all times when they ſhall thinke meete and conuenient for their owne benefit and good. And that from hencefoorth, nor at any time hereafter, there ſhall be any Lawes, Statutes, or Ordinances whatſoeuer, made or ordayned in contradiction of this Edict. And that it woulde pleaſe vs of our gratious fauour and goodnes, to pardon all thoſe perſons whatſoeuer, which haue heeretofore at any time or times, departed out of any of our Kingdomes, Dominions and Lordſhips, and haue ſolde and put away their goodes and Lands contrary to the ſaid former Lawes, Statutes and Ordinances, and alſo that wee ſhoulde Charge and Commaunde that all ſuch pretentions, accuſations, or moleſtation of them, or any of them, frõ this time forwarde ſhall ceaſe. And forasmuch as they do partly knowe the great want which my Treaſury doth ſuſtaine, and the decreaſing of my goodes, and by reaſon of the loyall loue and goodwill which they beare vnto me, as my true and loyall Subiects: they haue beſtowed vpon me 17050. ducats towardes the Coſt and chardges thereof. And that as touching this Decree, there might an Edict be made, which may remaine in force, and be eſtabliſhed for a Law, with a Contract irrevocable, and to that intent and purpoſe, that I ſhoulde graunt them their requeſt and petition aforeſaid, they alledged before me, certaine Reaſons and Cauſes to moue me to do the ſame: The which I commaunded to be

sene & perused, And also throughly examined by my lawes and Statutes, before the Lordes of my Royall Councell, and by other wise, discreat, and wise personages, throughly and well to examine the saide case, and to cause good proffes to be made thereof, and of such Informations as are needefull and requisite. Whereupon, now it doth appeare by those Lawes and accusations, that the saide new Christians haue receiued great Troubles, and ouermuch punnishment. And in consideration of this heauy burthen, which they haue carried and sustayned. We therefore finde it very conuenient and needefull, and also requisite for vs to Release them out of this bondage and thralldome, and that it were requisite it shoulde be so done and kept for the good gouerment and publique Weale of these my Kingdomes and Lordshipps, and immagining that they will esteeme well of this my Gracious fauour to them in this behalfe extended, and also acknowledge them selues greatly beholding vnto vs, and that by reason of their loyall Lone and Obedience, and many other kinde of Fauours by them shewed and done: I do holde it for good and conuenient, to Reuoke and vtterly make frustrat all those Lawes, Statutes and Ordinances whatsoeuer, wherein it is prohibited that the saide new Christians shoulde not departe out of my saide Realmes, Dominions and Lordeshyps, nor forth of them, nor to sel their goodes nor inheritances, without my special License. And therefore I doe Commaunde and will that from henceforth they may depart and goe out of my saide Realmes with their familles & moueables, or wout them, & that they may returne backe againe at all times, without any molesting or apprehending of them, and that none shal accuse them for departing out of my saide Realmes without leaue or license: And that likewise they may sell their said goodes at all times whensoeuer they shall thinke conuenient, freely without asking any leaue or license at all, and

I do further ordaine and holde it for good, that from hence forwardes, thiese my said Lawes, Statutes & Ordinances, shall neuer be Reuoked, but to stande and abide irreuocable for euer: insomuch, that I thinke it necessarie, for diuers & sundry causes me thereunto mouing: as first, for the seruice of God, Secondly, for mine Estate and Honor, and thirdly for the great benefit and commoditie that may arise & come, vnto my saide Realmes, Dominions and Lordships. And I do likewise holde it for good, and it is my will and pleasure frely, to pardon and forgiue all those which heretofore haue departed and gone away at any time, before the publication of this my Letter of Edict, out of my said Realmes, Dominions and Lordships, and haue solde their saide goodes and inheritances without leaue or licence.

Moreouer, I do strictly commaund and charge, that this Edict nor any part thereof be frustrated, nor to proceade in any thing, directly, or indirectly, against the same, by reason of the Demaundes, Causes and pretẽcions before mentioned, which hath bin done and executed against all such as haue bin accused, and Condempned, and haue bin tryed by order of law, and past in iudgment, shall for euer hereafter, cease, and not proceade any further. All which I do Commaunde to be performed, done and kept, by vertue of thiese my Letters Patents by me now confirmed, Signed, and Sealed with my Royall Seale depending thereunto: The which shall stande, abide, remaine, continue and be, with all the force, effect, and Vigour of the law, and also that the Contractes and agreements herein mencioned and expressed for euer hereafter, to be irrevocable: and that all the same wholie, shal be accomplished, performed and kept, in euery degree, according to the true meaning & Contents thereof, without any Trouble, Let, Hindrance, or Imperagement thereof at all.

And further I do desire and intreat, all those Kinges and

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Princes, (my Successors) which hereafter shall succéde me, for to accomplish, maintaine and kéepe this Edict, and also to commaunde and cause the same to be fulfilled & kept, as firmly, and in as lardge and ample manner, as by thiese my Letters Pattents in all poynts do containe, and according to the whole Contents thereof. And the saide 170500 Duccats which is paide by the saide new Christians, in that forme and manner afore mentioned in a Scedule of mine, which as concerning this Case, I did sende, and Commaunded it to passe, and so to be Registred. Giuen at Madrill, the Fowerth of Aprill, 1602.

Anthony Fernandis d' Sorses, did do it in the yeare of our Lorde, 1601. and Anthony Aluares de Senedo, did cause this to be Written.

FINIS.